

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 were examined on their merits. Claims 1-42 are all the claims currently pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the outstanding objections/rejections in the present application is also respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

Formal Matters

1. Applicants note with appreciation the indication on page 4 of the Office Action that claims 8, 9, 18, 19 and 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have opted to defer rewriting these claims in independent form pending reconsideration of the arguments presented below with respect to the rejected independent claims 1 and 13.

Art Rejections

1. Claims 1-7, 10-17, 20-29, 31, 32, and 40-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Roseman, U.S. Patent No. 6,608,636 ("Roseman"). Claims 1, 13, 41 and 42 are independent claims. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the reasons stated below.

To be an "anticipation" rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every element and recitation of the Applicants' claims. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are proper only when the claimed subject matter is identically disclosed or described in the prior art. Thus, the reference must clearly and unequivocally disclose every element and recitation of the claimed invention.

Independent Claim 1

Roseman is directed towards a multimedia conferencing system (*See e.g. Abstract.*) More specifically, Roseman describes a conferencing system in which participants utilize computers and audio and video communication systems to communicate collaboratively over a computer network. (*See col. 1, lines 34-63.*) The user interface in Roseman creates a virtual conference table. (*See col. 2, lines 38-60.*) In mimicking a conference table, the Roseman user interface displays all of the attendees of the conference, and all of the documents displayed on the table.

(See FIG. 9.) Finally, the user interface allows for manipulation of personal documents to be displayed on the conference table. (See FIG. 10.)

Applicants submit that Roseman fails to disclose the following claim limitation recited in independent claim 1:

“multimedia collaboration system configured so that presentation control of the session is exchanged freely between participants in the multimedia collaboration session”

The Examiner appears to argue that a conference system where ideas are freely exchanged among participants, and where procedural rules regulating communication are also available, discloses the claimed multimedia collaboration system configured so that presentation control of the session is exchanged freely between participants in the multimedia collaboration session. Applicants respectfully disagree. There is absolutely no disclosure in Roseman of a system that allows the free exchange of presentation control. In fact, Roseman actually implements a system that *rejects* the free exchange of presentation control among participants by taking active steps to mitigate “filibustering.” (See col. 12, lines 29-45.) By rejecting “filibustering,” Roseman discloses two mutually exclusive methods governing the conduct of a meeting. (See col. 3, lines 52-56.) The first method gives absolute power to the Requester to control who can communicate. (See col. 3, lines 53-54.) This method fails to disclose the claimed system where control may be *exchanged freely* among *several* other participants without the consent of those in control. The second method removes all control from the communication session, creating a “brainstorming free-for-all.” (See col. 3, line 55.) This method fails to disclose the claimed system where one or more participants of a communication session *have control of the session*. The claimed system is quite dissimilar from the methods disclosed in Roseman, as it combines the positive aspects of both disclosed methods, and implements a system that, in a sense, facilitates and enhances the “filibustering” that Roseman takes active steps to stop. In summary, there is no disclosure in Roseman of a multimedia collaboration system configured so that presentation control of the session is exchanged freely between participants in the multimedia collaboration session as recited in claim 1. Since claims 2-12 depend from claim 1, and since Roseman does not disclose all of the limitations of claim 1, Applicants submit that claims 2-12 are patentable at least by

virtue of their dependency from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Independent Claim 13

Applicants submit that Roseman fails to disclose the following claim limitation recited in independent claim 13:

“a user interface comprising: an identification section;
a current presentation section”

The Examiner does not specify any disclosure within Roseman with respect to claim 13. The Examiner appears to argue the general user interface disclosed within Roseman discloses the claimed user interface comprising: an identification section and a current presentation section. Applicants respectfully disagree. A review of Roseman FIG. 9-14 reveals there is absolutely no disclosure of an identification section in the user interface. In addition, several attributes necessary for an identification section are not disclosed in Roseman, making an identification section impossible. Roseman does not disclose how to distinguish a presenter from other participants during a brainstorming session. Without such disclosure there would be no way for an identification section to know which participant was actively presenting so as to display their information. Merely showing every participant's face is not sufficient. Furthermore, the disclosed identification section displays information related to a current presentation. However, Roseman does not disclose if or how objects are determined to be current or noncurrent. (*See col. 11, lines 18-37.*) Without a way to determine which documents are current, an identification section as disclosed would be impossible, as there would be no way to determine which document should have its information displayed by the identification section. Absent such basic necessary information, it is clear that Roseman does not disclose the claimed user interface comprising: an identification section.

Roseman also fails to disclose a user interface comprising: a current presentation section. As stated above, Roseman does not disclose if or how objects are determined to be current or noncurrent. Without such disclosure, a user interface which identifies and displays a current presentation from multiple available presentations would be impossible. It follows that Roseman does not disclose a current presentation section. A review of Roseman FIG. 9-14 reveals that all objects are displayed simultaneously on the virtual conference table, with absolutely no user

interface provided to display only a current presentation. Roseman, by mimicking a conference table, is limited by the realities of a real meeting. Multiple presentations do not take place simultaneously at real meetings; likewise Roseman does not disclose a user interface that can handle such capabilities. In summary, there is no disclosure in Roseman of a user interface comprising: an identification section and a current presentation section as recited in claim 13. Since claims 14-40 depend from claim 13, and since Roseman does not disclose all of the limitations of claim 13, Applicants submit that claims 14-40 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 13-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Independent Claim 41

Applicants submit that Roseman fails to disclose the following claim limitation recited in independent claim 41:

“method of freely exchanging presentation control between client devices”

The Examiner does not specify any disclosure within Roseman with respect to claim 41. The Examiner appears to argue a method of freely exchanging ideas among participants, and a method where procedural rules are used to regulate communication and maintain order, disclose the claimed method of freely exchanging presentation control between client devices. Applicants respectfully disagree. There is absolutely no disclosure in Roseman of a method that allows the free exchange of presentation control between client devices. In fact, Roseman actually implements a system that *rejects* the free exchange of presentation control among participants by taking active steps to mitigate “filibustering.” (See col. 12, lines 29-45.) By rejecting “filibustering,” Roseman discloses two mutually exclusive methods governing the conduct of a meeting. (See col. 3, lines 52-56.) The first method gives absolute power to the Requester to control who can communicate. (See col. 3, lines 53-54.) This method fails to disclose the claimed method where control may be *exchanged freely* among *several* other participants without the consent of those in control. The second method removes all control from the communication session, creating a “brainstorming free-for-all.” (See col. 3, line 55.) This method fails to disclose the claimed method where one or more participants of a communication session *have control of the session*. The claimed system is quite dissimilar from the methods disclosed in Roseman, as it

combines the positive aspects of both disclosed methods, and implements a system that, in a sense, facilitates and enhances the “filibustering” that Roseman takes active steps to stop. In summary, there is no disclosure in Roseman of a method of freely exchanging presentation control between client devices as recited in claim 41. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Independent Claim 42

Applicants submit that Roseman fails to disclose the following claim limitations recited in independent claim 42:

“method of freely exchanging presentation control between client devices”

and

“wherein the method comprises: assigning control of the central presentation region to the client device that most recently presents information to the central presentation region.”

The Examiner does not specify any disclosure within Roseman with respect to claim 42. The Examiner appears to argue a method of freely exchanging ideas among participants, and a method where procedural rules are used to regulate communication and maintain order, disclose the claimed method of freely exchanging presentation control between client devices. For the reasons discussed above, which are fully incorporated herein, Applicants again submit that Roseman fails to disclose or describe the claimed method of freely exchanging presentation control between client devices.

Furthermore, the Examiner appears to argue a method of freely exchanging ideas among participants, and a method where procedural rules are used to regulate communication and maintain order, disclose the claimed method comprising: assigning control of the central presentation region to the client device that most recently presents information to the central presentation region. Applicants respectfully disagree. As previously stated, Roseman discloses only two mutually exclusive methods for governing the conduct of a meeting. (*See col. 3, lines 52-56.*) The first method gives absolute power to the Requester to control who can communicate. (*See col. 3, lines 53-54.*) Theoretically, the Requester could implement the claimed method of assigning control of the central presentation region to the client device that most recently presents

information to the central presentation region. However, there is absolutely no disclosure anywhere in Roseman of such a method. In addition, such a method would be impossible to enforce, as Roseman discloses no way of forcing the transfer of conference control. The second method removes all control from the communication session, creating a “brainstorming free-for-all.” (*See col. 3, line 55.*) This method fails to disclose the claimed method where *control is assigned*. Nonexistent control cannot be assigned. Roseman does disclose the transfer of *speaking privileges* based on a queue. (*See col. 11, lines 44-46.*) However, speaking privileges are not analogous to that of control of a presentation region. Unlike in Roseman, where total control of the conference table and the documents it contains is never disclosed, the claimed control of a presentation region includes control of the documents and other media viewable by other participants. In summary, there is no disclosure in Roseman of a method of freely exchanging presentation control between client devices as recited in claim 42. Roseman also fails to disclose a method comprising: assigning control of the central presentation region to the client device that most recently presents information to the central presentation region as recited in claim 42. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

2. Claims 33-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roseman, U.S. Patent No. 6,608,636 (“Roseman”). Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections for the following reason. Since claims 33-39 depend upon claim 13, and since Roseman, as discussed above, does not disclose all the limitations of claim 13, Applicants submit that claims 33-39 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 13. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

3. Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter set forth therein. Specifically, the Examiner stated that claim 32 made no sense, and asked what the Applicants meant by a “synch to presenter” feature. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because paragraphs [074] – [079] explicitly describe a synch to presenter button and its corresponding functionality. The button enables a viewer to jump to the currently presented slide or presentation material if the viewer has fallen behind in the presentation. (*See application paragraph [074].*) For example, if a viewer of a presentation is looking at slides previously

presented during the current presentation, utilizing the synch to presenter feature will jump to and display to the viewer the slide which is currently being presented. In cases where there are multiple presentations, the synch to presenter functionality can be configured to display to the viewer the presentation that has been most recently updated, or to take the viewer to the central presentation section. (*See application paragraphs [076], [078].*) Because the synch to presenter button and its corresponding functionality is particularly pointed out in paragraphs [074] - [079] of the present specification, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

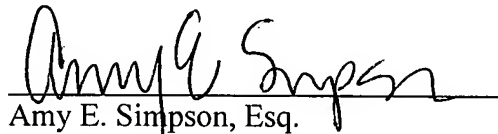
Applicants are concurrently filing herewith a Request for a Three-Month Extension of Time, along with the requisite fee. In the event that a variance exists between the amount tendered and that required by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to enter and consider this Reply, or to prevent abandonment of the present application, please charge or credit such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-2613 (Order No. 45098.00011.UTL1.P1068).

Respectfully submitted,

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